

"ERICK HOUSE"
WILSON DALE FARM
HARRISBURG, PA.

H.A.B.S. No. PA-35

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. PA-3

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Julian Millard, District Officer
2250 No. Third St., Harrisburg, Pa.

"BRICK HOUSE"

Willow Dale Farm

Located on the Old Road from Harrisburg to Reading Via Union Deposit, at the Crossing of the Modern Road from Paxtang to Progress, near Harrisburg, Pa.

OWNER: Mrs. Alice Motter Lescure, Harrisburg, Pa.

DATE OF ERECTION: About 1758.

ARCHITECT: Unknown.

BUILDER: Unknown.

PRESENT CONDITION: Fair. Occupied by a tenant. The present porch, roof and cornice were built in 1860. Some parts of the upper walls appear to have been rebuilt, as a stone set in the gable has an inscription "A.D. 1807".

NUMBER OF STORIES: Two stories and attic.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Foundation is stone, walls are of brick burned nearby on the farm. The out-kitchen has stone walls.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: Abstracts of County Records and family history made by J. W. Martin (descendant of Samuel Martin) of the Minnesota Loan & Trust Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota, under date of October 5th, 1905, copies of which are in possession of Mrs. Lescure. Also, History of Perseverance Lodge #21, F. & A. M.

ADDITIONAL DATA: In May 1738, Warrant #145 was issued to Joseph Martin for the 300 acre "Plantation" upon which this house was afterward built. Joseph lived there probably in the log house which stood until recent times, southwest of the Willow Dale Ravine.

Joseph died in 1749, leaving the place to his only son, Samuel. Samuel lived on the 300 acre Plantation of his uncle, James Martin, located adjoining the land upon which Fort Hunter was afterward built. Although he now became the owner of the Joseph Martin place, he did not move there until 1758, when he made improvements, which are assumed to have included the present brick house, with its stone kitchen and a brick barn.

Samuel Martin lived here until his death in 1770, and his widow until her death in 1772. The place then passed to Jacob Awl, a tanner. The deed describes it as on the "Great Road". Awl did not live here but seems to have rented it to one named Campbell who conducted a tavern in the house for many years. Later owners were John Reasor, John Motter and the present owner, Mrs. Alice Motter Lescure of Harrisburg.

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In 1779 Perseverance Lodge #21 of the Masonic Order was constituted in this house and continued meeting here for a year. Capt. Matthew Smith was the first Master of this Lodge, which was the first Masonic Lodge in the area which is now Dauphin County. (County erected in 1785.) In recent times this house is sometimes referred to as the Captain Matthew Smith House.

Julian Willard
District Officer

Reviewed 1936 H.C.F.